

Scripture Reading:
Psalm 104

Creative Creation

When I was preparing this worship I went off the script that Julie Larson had created along with the help of the creation services found on the United Church of Canada website. This stunning video of images of creation was within that video. I am going to play this while I share with you some thought that came to my mind preparing this. My apologies to those watching online I do not have assistance with my technology today so I can't fully put this in right now but you will see the link in your order of service so if you have the ability maybe you can click and watch along (if you are watching at a later date you should have it covered).

These stunning images are a sermon within themselves and so I also wanted to share them as I read the scripture this morning. The images won't line up with the text entirely but they will share the message deeply. Meditate on this Psalm with me.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BDUmPyfY4Ik>

Scripture Reading -Psalm 104

¹ Praise the LORD, my soul.

LORD my God, you are very great;
you are clothed with splendor and majesty.

² The LORD wraps himself in light as with a garment;
he stretches out the heavens like a tent

³ and lays the beams of his upper chambers on their waters.

He makes the clouds his chariot
and rides on the wings of the wind.

⁴ He makes winds his messengers,^[a]
flames of fire his servants.

⁵ He set the earth on its foundations;
it can never be moved.

⁶ You covered it with the watery depths as with a garment;
the waters stood above the mountains.

⁷ But at your rebuke the waters fled,
at the sound of your thunder they took to flight;

⁸ they flowed over the mountains,
they went down into the valleys,

to the place you assigned for them.

⁹ You set a boundary they cannot cross;
never again will they cover the earth.

¹⁰ He makes springs pour water into the ravines;
it flows between the mountains.

¹¹ They give water to all the beasts of the field;
the wild donkeys quench their thirst.

¹² The birds of the sky nest by the waters;
they sing among the branches.

¹³ He waters the mountains from his upper chambers;
the land is satisfied by the fruit of his work.

¹⁴ He makes grass grow for the cattle,
and plants for people to cultivate—
bringing forth food from the earth:

¹⁵ wine that gladdens human hearts,
oil to make their faces shine,
and bread that sustains their hearts.

¹⁶ The trees of the LORD are well watered,
the cedars of Lebanon that he planted.

¹⁷ There the birds make their nests;
the stork has its home in the junipers.

¹⁸ The high mountains belong to the wild goats;
the crags are a refuge for the hyrax.

¹⁹ He made the moon to mark the seasons,
and the sun knows when to go down.

²⁰ You bring darkness, it becomes night,
and all the beasts of the forest prowl.

²¹ The lions roar for their prey
and seek their food from God.

²² The sun rises, and they steal away;
they return and lie down in their dens.

²³ Then people go out to their work,
to their labor until evening.

²⁴ How many are your works, LORD!
In wisdom you made them all;
the earth is full of your creatures.

²⁵ There is the sea, vast and spacious,
teeming with creatures beyond number—
living things both large and small.

²⁶ There the ships go to and fro,
and Leviathan, which you formed to frolic there.

²⁷ All creatures look to you
to give them their food at the proper time.

28 When you give it to them,
they gather it up;
when you open your hand,
they are satisfied with good things.
29 When you hide your face,
they are terrified;
when you take away their breath,
they die and return to the dust.
30 When you send your Spirit,
they are created,
and you renew the face of the ground.
31 May the glory of the LORD endure forever;
may the LORD rejoice in his works—
32 he who looks at the earth, and it trembles,
who touches the mountains, and they smoke.
33 I will sing to the LORD all my life;
I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.
34 May my meditation be pleasing to him,
as I rejoice in the LORD.
35 But may sinners vanish from the earth
and the wicked be no more.
Praise the LORD, my soul.
Praise the LORD.^[b]

Hear what the spirit is saying to the church

Thanks be to God.

There really are no words to express the beauty we see in these images. Imagine that our scriptures tell us this is what the creator birthed out of chaos out of the dark void. Imagine then what the creator could do with us, with our lives if we allowed. Gods creativity is found everywhere, on everything in it and upon us and everything we are.

When I stop and pray, ponder, reflect, simply notice creation I find myself in a posture of gratitude. I am grateful because I know that this world is bigger than my problems and my soul can soar farther than I sometimes believe.

A couple of friends and I have committed to walk together every Monday morning we can. This was sparked out of the women's retreat we had at the end of August. We realized we were all awed by creation, we wanted to be out in it more and regular commitment with others was going to be helpful. The first morning we met all three of us were late, we rushed in with our apologies and suddenly realized each one of us had had a challenging morning getting our children to school. All three of us had a story of a child crying and dragging their heels not wanting to go. We breathed deeper by the end of the time of sharing our stories walking the trails. We even

chose to go a little longer and a little harder than originally planned because climbing up those trails to the majestic view took away the stress of the time even if just for a little while.

Since then we have taken several Monday morning walks and they have been a balance of hard work out to stopping and gazing at the mushrooms, and plants learning their names and properties. Creation has been a part of healing us.

God's creativity is very huge...and very personal.

One of God's names is Creator.

And we need a Creator God.

We need the divine to always be creating moments of beauty for us.

We need the Spirit to imagine for us the places we need to go to, the people we need to meet, the lessons we need to learn, and the life we are called to lead.

If we take time to see Holy creativity and realize the difference it makes in us.

- sparking our creativity
- lifting us out of the ordinary
- helping us believe more entirely.

There is the potential for our cups to be filled.

There is no doubt that God is creative. We can see that in the images before us. We see it in the mountains and the seas and everything on them, in them and around them. There is creativity found through the cycles of life set into motion and made the sun to rule by day and the moon to rule by night. We are told, and we believe for the most part, that we are made in the image of God, according to [Genesis 1](#).

So it needs to be understood that we have been given by God the wonderful gift of creativity.

Jeremy Wright, Mosaic Artist: "I make this art for myself and for my community because I'm like my Father in heaven. I am a little creator, and if I don't make something I will wither and die." (Outreach Magazine, July/August 2008, p.91)

You too are creative. That's God's mark upon you and you should be thankful for it.

"Consider the lilies..." find God's mercy and grace and care in creation.

Jesus through the parables teaches us to imagine – "the kingdom of God is like a mustard seed"; "with faith you can tell this mountain to move and it will"; "in my Father's house are many rooms..." He taught us to look at things from a different angle to find the answers we're looking for, to "toss our nets on the other side of the boat." And he bestowed his creativity upon us: "and you will do greater things than this..." We have tools to help us be creative that Jesus could only dream of, and we have the ability to be more creative than we even imagine.

I've read that Michelangelo, the great sculptor and painter, was pushing a heavy rock up a small incline to his work area so that he could do some sculpting. A neighbour watched him for over an hour as he worked to get this rock in place. Finally he asked, "Michelangelo, why do you labor so hard over that ugly, heavy piece of rock?" Michelangelo said, "Because there is an angel inside that wants to come out."

I love that story. Imagine if we saw that kind of potential in each one of us, in all of creation. I definitely don't mean we should chisel away at things but we can start being more creative every day.

If you need some help go for a walk with a toddler who will help you

- Stop and smell the roses.
- Stop and consider the “small things” – bugs in the grass, sand on the beach, the freckles on your hand

Marlene LeFever said “Creativity is the ability to see things in a new way.”

This week I encourage you to Go and be still allow the holy to your creative spirit and to rejuvenate your imagination

Amen